

Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

GACHA

Washington State Department of Health
Infectious Disease and Reproductive Health
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Governor's AIDS Council seeks public views on potential changes in delivery of HIV services

The Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (GACHA) is seeking the public's views on potential changes to the statewide delivery of HIV services. For more than 20 years, those services have been coordinated through six regional AIDS offices, or AIDSNETS. Facing another tight-budget year, state lawmakers are expected in January, to consider eliminating the AIDSNETS to reduce costs to the state. Under one proposal, the state Department of Health would be responsible for delivery of services by contracting directly with local agencies and community based groups, bypassing regional administrators.

"All of us in the HIV community understand the need to spend our diminishing funds most efficiently," said GACHA Chairman David Lee, "but we need to ensure that any new system still gives voice to all regions of the state, and to all the diverse communities affected by the continuing HIV epidemic. What works well in the densely populated Puget Sound corridor, may not be the approach needed in more rural areas of the state. Whatever we do, our goals remain the same; to stop the spread of HIV and provide life-saving care for those who need it."

The GACHA public forum on the future delivery of HIV services takes place on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Sea-Tac Holiday Inn, 17338 International Boulevard. The council's regular business meeting begins at 1:15 p.m.

For those unable to attend the forum, GACHA is requesting comments be emailed to: gacha@doh.wa.gov by Friday, November 6. More information is available at GACHA's website: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/HIV_AIDS/GACHA.